

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-36, 38-41, 43-47 and 49-52 were previously pending in the application. Claims 12-13, 20, 29, 32-33, 38-39, 45-47, and 49-50 are canceled; and claims 1, 5-7, 9-11, 14-15, 17-19, 21, 25-28, 30-31, and 34-36 are amended herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-11, 14-19, 21-28, 30-31, 34-36, 40-41, 43-44, and 51-52 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

On 01/18/06, the Examiner participated in a telephonic interview with the Applicant's agent Yuri Gruzdkov. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of that interview.

Claims 40-41 and 43-44 are allowed. In paragraph 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 20-24, 37, 42, 47, and 49-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morgan. In paragraph 4, the Examiner rejected claims 9-10, 28, 30, 31, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan in view of Bakke. In paragraph 6, the Examiner rejected claims 5, 11-12, 32-33, 38-39, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morgan in view of Lane. On page 10, the Examiner objected to claims 6-8, 13-19, 25-27, 29, and 34-36 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 1-11, 14-19, 21-28, 30-31, and 34-36:

Support for the amendment of independent claims 1, 10, and 21 can be found, e.g., in previously pending claim 6 and Applicant's Fig. 4. The Applicant submits that, for substantially the same reasons that previously pending claim 6 was indicated as allowable, each of currently amended claims 1, 10, and 21 is now allowable. Since claims 2-9, 11, 14-19, 22-28, 30-31, and 34-36 depend variously from claims 1, 10, and 21, the Applicant submits that those claims are also allowable.

Claims 41 and 51-52:

Claims 51 and 52 depend from claim 41. Since claim 41 is allowed, the Applicant submits that claims 51-52 are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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